

Colville Square Playground

Analysis of stakeholder consultation

November 2025

Consultation and Participation Team
The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea
consult@rbkc.gov.uk



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA

Introduction

Background

Colville Square Playground is a much-loved play area for younger children (up to age six), located alongside Colville Square in North Kensington, near Portobello Road, Notting Hill. It features toddler swings, a basket swing, a wooden playhouse, a see-saw, a roundabout, a slide, and a climbing frame, all enclosed by timber fencing.

As the existing play equipment and safety surfacing have reached the end of their lifespan, the Council invited residents to share their views to help design a new and improved playground for local young children.

Consultation methodology

The consultation was promoted through a range of channels to reach local residents and families. A total of 2,200 flyers were hand-delivered to neighbouring properties, and posters were displayed in the playground and Colville Square Gardens. Drop-in sessions were advertised for Parks and Project Officers to speak with residents on-site, while additional promotion took place through Colville Nursery and Pre-School, where a workshop was also held with children. The consultation was further promoted in the Colville Primary School newsletter, through Colville Ward Members, and on the local platform Nextdoor. Flyers were also made available at North Kensington Library. The exercise opened on 08 September 2025 and closed on 20 October 2025 with a total of 47 responses.

Report

A total of 47 surveys were returned by the deadline. This report contains an analysis of survey responses.

A separate appendix report is available on request, which details all comments made by respondents to the questions within the survey.

Acknowledgements

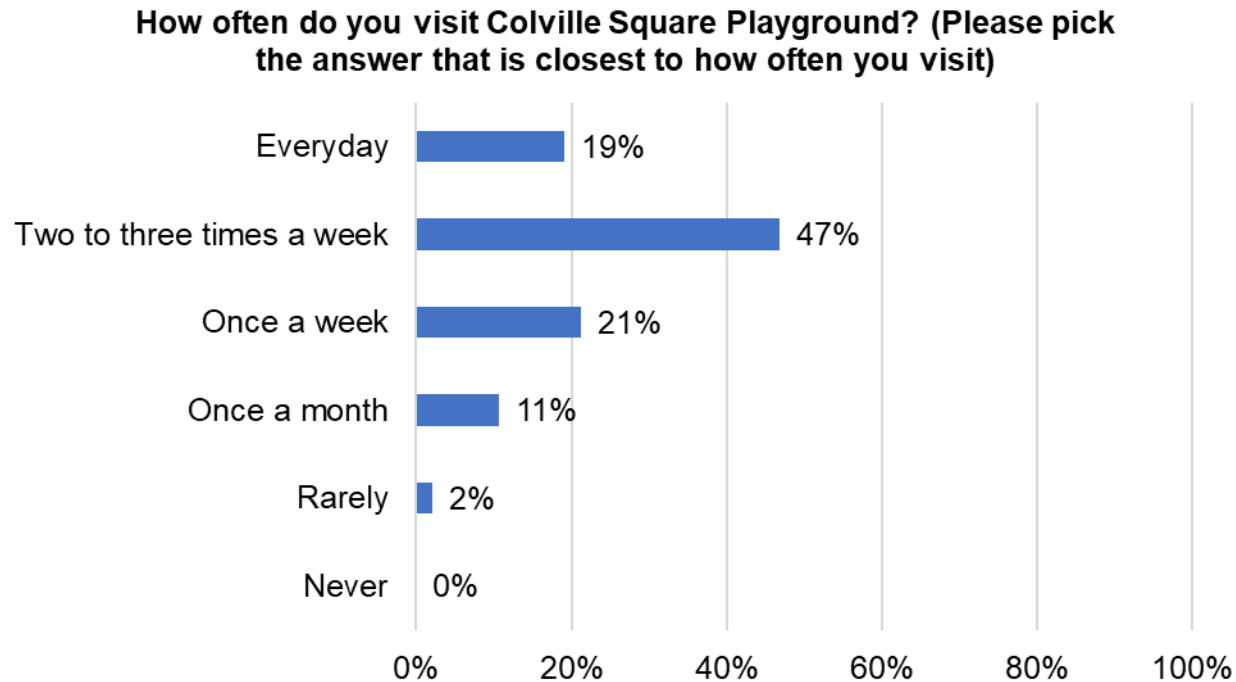
The Council would like to thank all residents and stakeholders that took the time to feedback their views.



Playground Visit Frequency

When asked how often they visit Colville Square Playground:

- Almost half of respondents said they go two to three times a week, 47 per cent of respondents.
- While 21 per cent reported visiting once a week.
- Only a small number, around two per cent, said they visit rarely.



Base: All respondents (47)

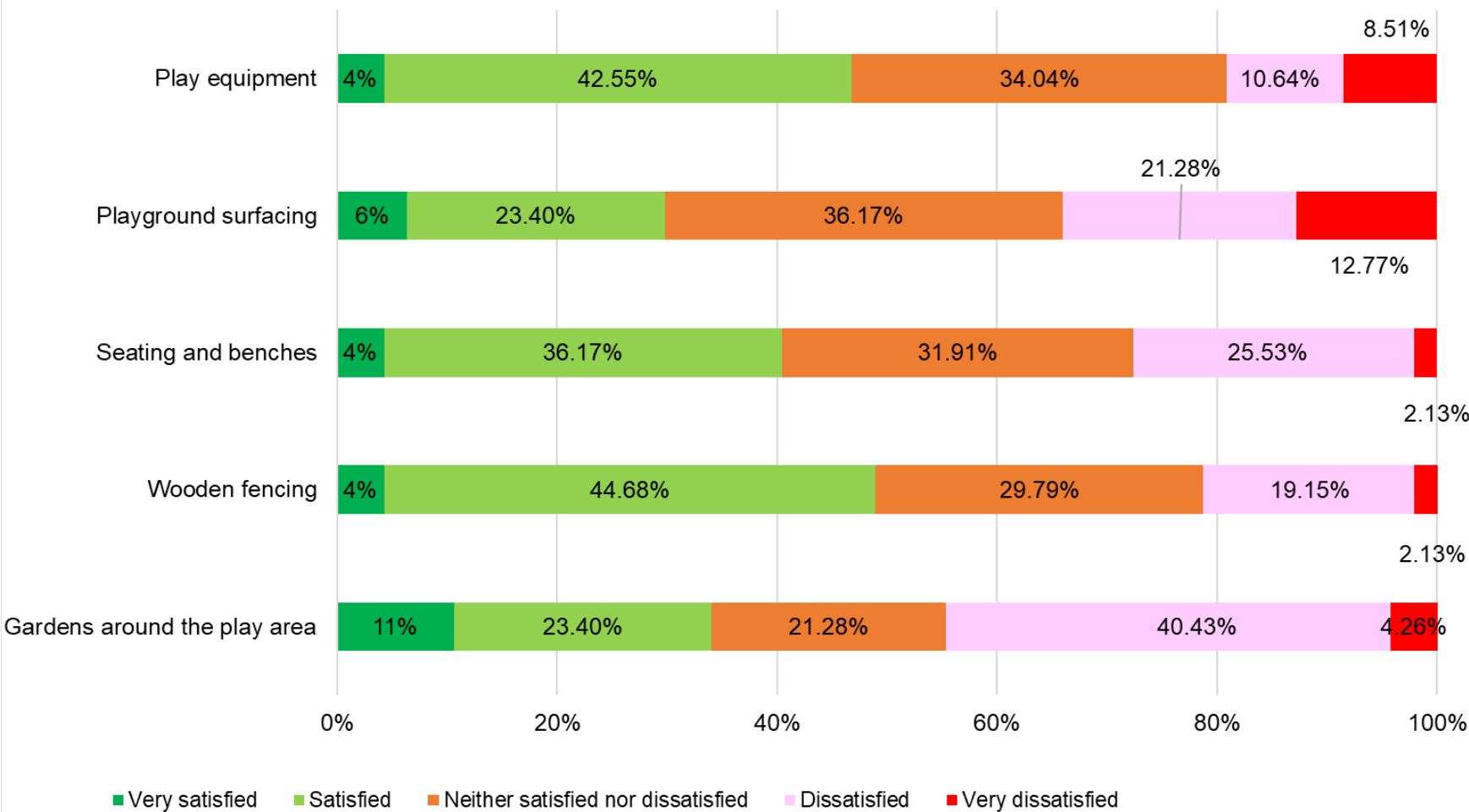
Satisfaction levels

Respondents were asked how satisfied or dissatisfied they are with a number of aspects of the current playground. These aspects include play equipment, playground surfacing, seating and benches, wooden fencing, and the gardens around the play area. The graph on the following page illustrates the following findings:

- **Play equipment** received mixed feedback — while nearly half (around 47 per cent) were satisfied or very satisfied, just over 45 per cent expressed dissatisfaction or neutrality, suggesting room for improvement.
- **Playground surfacing** was among the least satisfactory aspects, with almost one-third of respondents dissatisfied and around 29 per cent satisfied.
- **Seating and benches** also raised concern, with roughly one in four respondents dissatisfied, indicating a need for upgrades or additional seating.
- **Wooden fencing** achieved the highest satisfaction levels, with nearly half of respondents satisfied and relatively few expressing dissatisfaction.
- **Gardens around the play area** recorded the highest dissatisfaction, with over 40 per cent of respondents dissatisfied and only around one-third satisfied, highlighting maintenance and design improvements as priorities.

Satisfaction levels

How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the following aspects of the current playground?



Base: All respondents (47)

Areas that need improvement

Respondents were asked if they are dissatisfied with any of the playground's aspects to explain why and what changes they would like to see.

The feedback has been categorised into key themes, with those receiving four or more comments summarised in the table below. Additional examples of comments can be found on the next page, and a full breakdown is available in the appendices.

Theme	Count
Maintenance and Upkeep	13
Play Space Design and Age Appropriateness	9
Safety, Seating, and Accessibility	7



Comments – Areas that need improvement

“1 more seat needed in play area-maintenance garden needs tidying.”

Maintenance and upkeep

“The playground needs to be much bigger. The park is very old and desperately needs updating.

The fencing is imperative as there are often dog walkers, fencing ensure the children are kept safe.”

Play Space Design and Age Appropriateness



“Would it be possible to create a sports area similar to the one in Powis Square? That space is often very crowded and tends to be dominated by groups of men, which can feel intimidating—for me and for children in general..”

Safety, Seating, and Accessibility

“It’s not child friendly for younger toddlers apart from the swings. My son likes the pirate ship but the rest of the wooden features are outdated”

Play Space Design and Age Appropriateness

“Gardens could be better maintained and larger variety flowers/other plants. Playground could be resurfaced and boat needs fixing. Metal roundabout not ideal as does not work well. House on stilts with slide is great however

Often queues for toddler swings and area with wooden logs too hard for younger kids and not exciting enough for older ones

The playhouse is great! Would be great to have a much larger playground as so many kids use it!

Also, some shaded areas as it gets so hot

Maintenance and upkeep

“The playground is run down and hasn’t been changed in 20 years. Needs more swings and the roundabout removed for safety.

Maintenance and upkeep

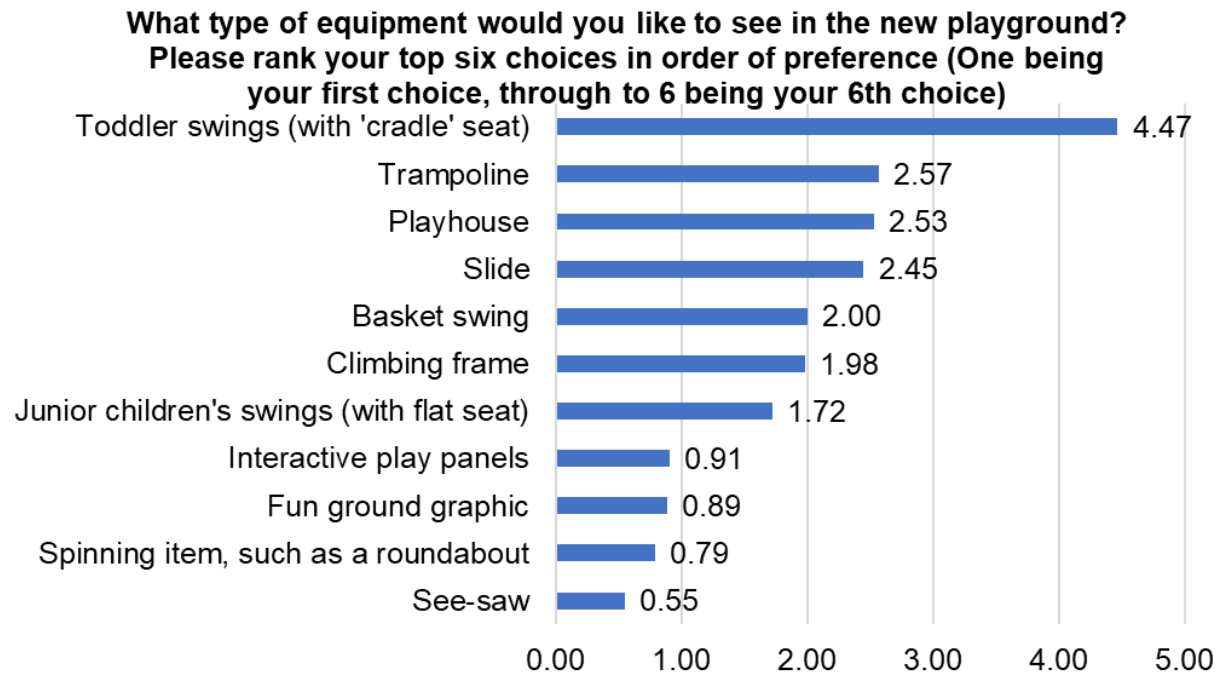


THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA

Types of equipment

Respondents were asked what type of equipment they would like to see in the new playground and were invited to rank six choices in order of preference.

- **Toddler swings** were by far the most popular choice, scoring 4.47, indicating a strong preference for facilities catering to younger children.
- **Trampolines, playhouses, and slides** followed closely behind, each averaging around 2.5, reflecting consistent demand for active and imaginative play options.
- **Basket swings and climbing frames** were moderately popular, suggesting value in retaining or incorporating these items into the design.
- **Junior children's swings** received a lower average score of 1.72, suggesting they are less of a priority compared with toddler-focused equipment.
- **Interactive play panels, fun ground graphics, spinning items, and see-saws** all scored below 1, indicating the lowest levels of interest among respondents.



Base: All respondents (47)



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA

Types of equipment- other suggestions

Respondents were asked if they have any other specific suggestion for the types of equipment they would like to see.

The feedback has been categorised into key themes, with those receiving four or more comments summarised in the table below. Additional examples of comments can be found on the next page, and a full breakdown is available in the appendices.

Theme	Count
Play Equipment Variety	6
Safety and Accessibility	4
Play Equipment Variety-Sand Pit	4
Include graphical elements	2
Play Equipment-Age Appropriateness	2
Install a Water Fountain	1



Comments – Types of equipment

“Bouncy animal.”

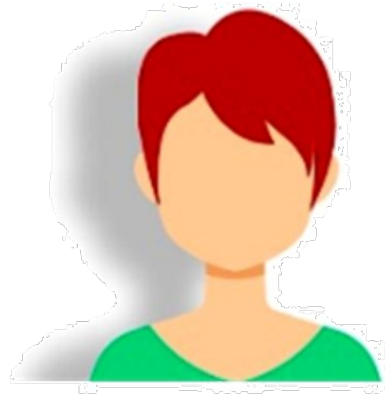
Play Equipment Variety

“Sand pit.”

Play Equipment Variety- sand pit

“Children need climbing frames and also huts/places they can play hide and seek with one another or imagine they’re a shopkeeper or in a den.”

Play Equipment Variety



“Smaller slides.”

Play Equipment-Age Appropriateness

“Would it be possible to offer more than six play options? At the moment, children often have to wait just to access and enjoy the space, which feels unfair. The area is meant for them, yet much of it is taken up by seating for adults—which doesn’t seem necessary. Children should be the priority here.”

Play Equipment-Age Appropriateness

“I play basketball/football with my son.”

Play Equipment Variety

“The equipment that is there all gets used a lot. I wouldn’t eliminate anything except for the big log climbing structure (not great for most kids). Some more interactive items like the ones that make sounds would be good and maybe some low monkey bars for the little kids to swing on.”

Safety and Accessibility

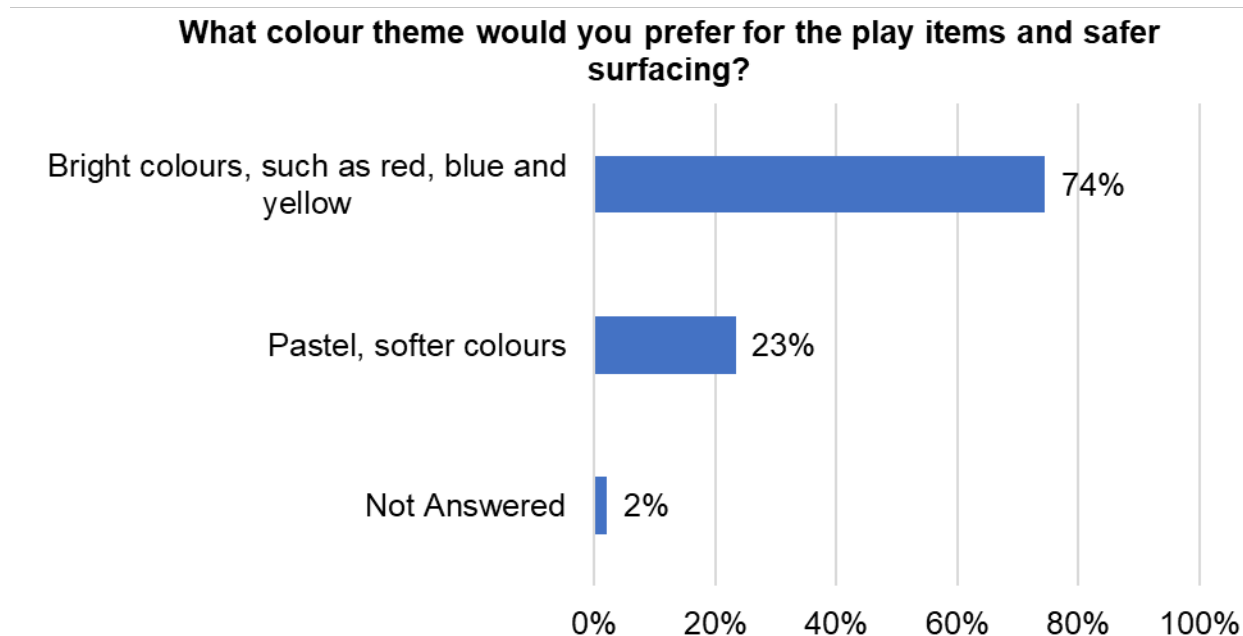


THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA

Colour theme

Respondents were asked what colour theme they would prefer for the play items and safety surfacing.

- Bright colours — such as red, blue, and yellow — were the most popular choice, selected by 74 per cent of respondents.
- In contrast, pastel or softer colours were preferred by 23 per cent.



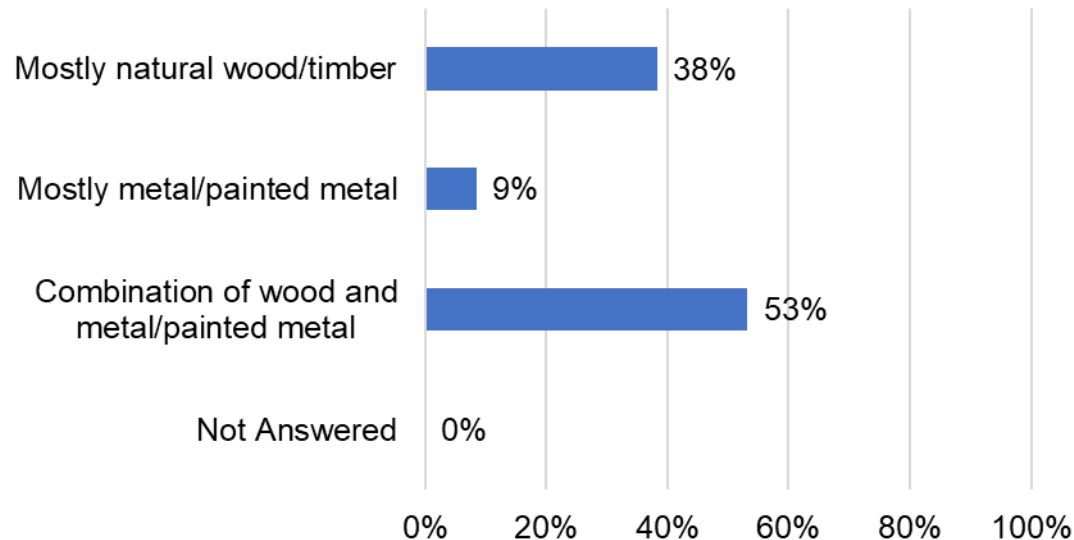
Base: All respondents (47)

Materials to be used

Respondents were asked what materials they would prefer the play items to be made from.

- The most selected option was a combination of wood and painted metal, chosen by 53 per cent of respondents.
- 38 per cent preferred mostly natural wood or timber, while 9 per cent selected mostly metal or painted metal.

What materials would you prefer the play items to be made from?



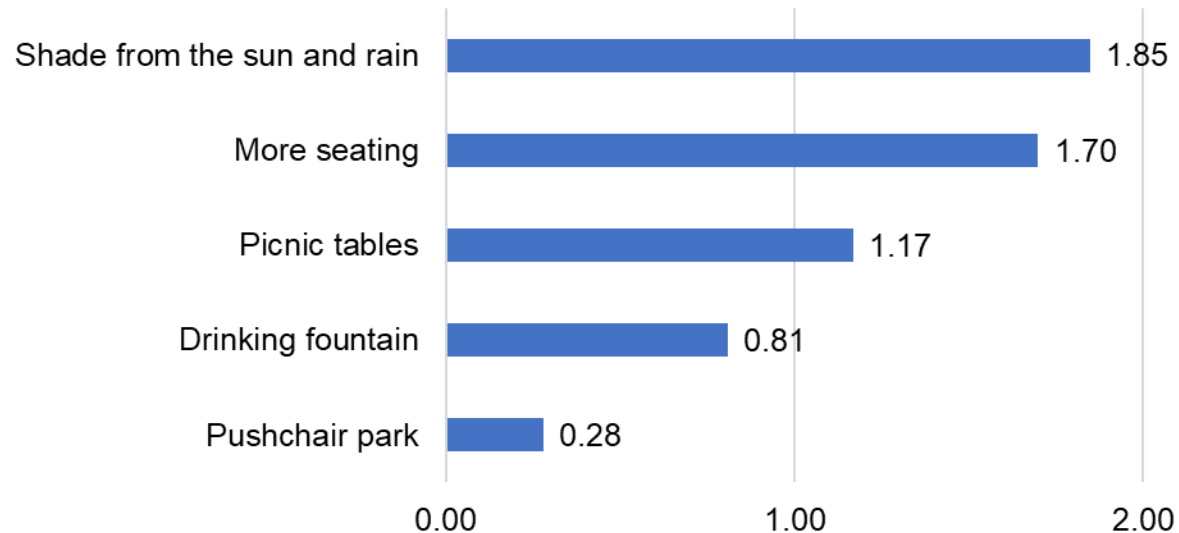
Base: All respondents (47)

Non-play equipment

Respondents were asked what types of non-play equipment they would like to see in the new playground.

- Shade from the sun and rain was the most popular choice (1.85), showing a strong desire for weather protection.
- More seating ranked second (1.70), highlighting demand for additional resting areas.
- Picnic tables followed (1.17), suggesting interest in spaces for families to gather.
- Drinking fountains (0.81) and pushchair parks (0.28) were lower priorities.

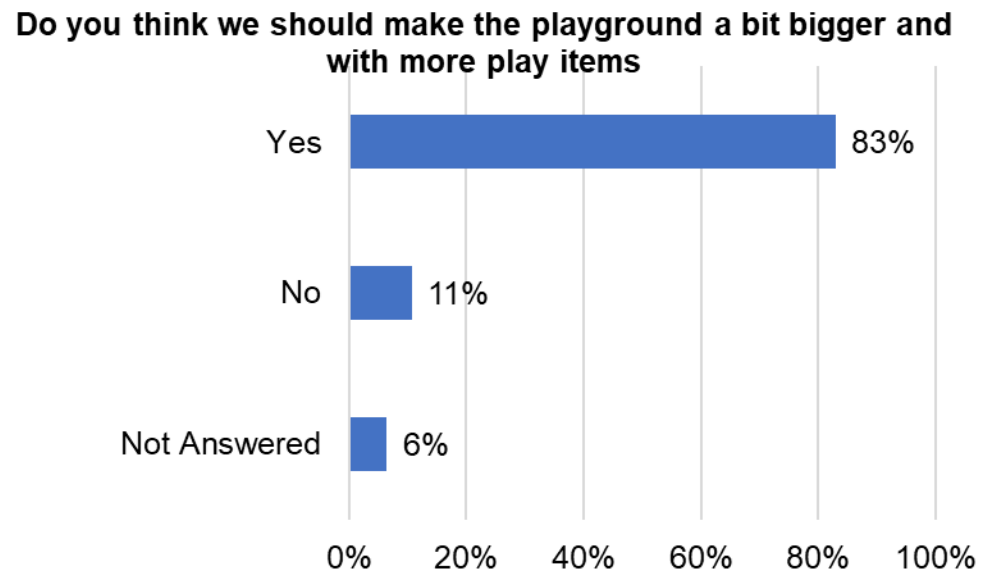
What types of non-play equipment would you like to see in the new playground?



Making the playground bigger

Respondents were asked whether they think the playground should be made a bit bigger and include more play items.

- The majority of respondents (83 per cent) said yes, the playground should be made bigger.
- 11 per cent said no, and six per cent did not provide an answer.

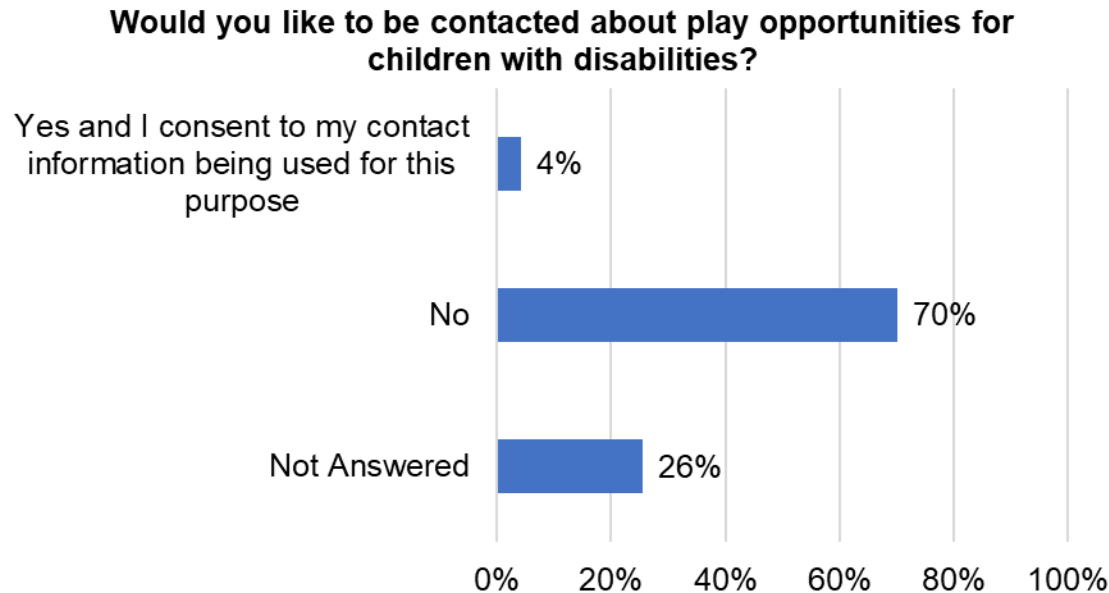


Base: All respondents (47)

Opportunities for children with disabilities

Respondents were asked if they would like to be contacted about play opportunities for children with disabilities.

- Most respondents (70 per cent) said they would not like to be contacted.
- Four per cent said yes, they would like to be contacted.
- Twenty-six per cent did not provide an answer.



Base: All respondents (47)

Engagement session- Colville Nursery and Pre-School

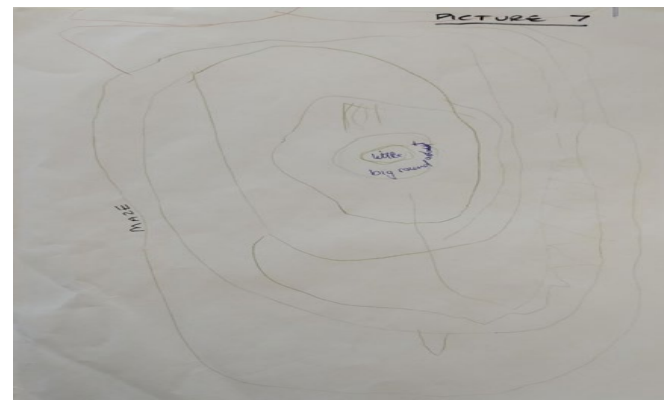
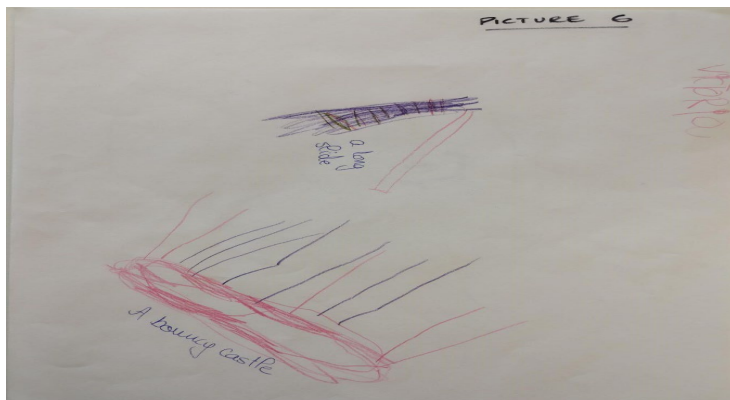
An engagement session was held with staff and children from Colville Nursery and Pre-School on 22 September 2025 to gather ideas for the new playground design.

Nursery staff noted that children particularly enjoy swings, climbing activities, and equipment that allows multiple children to play together, such as the basket swing. They also expressed interest in having slides of different sizes, as well as more challenging and interactive features like a trampoline or obstacle course.

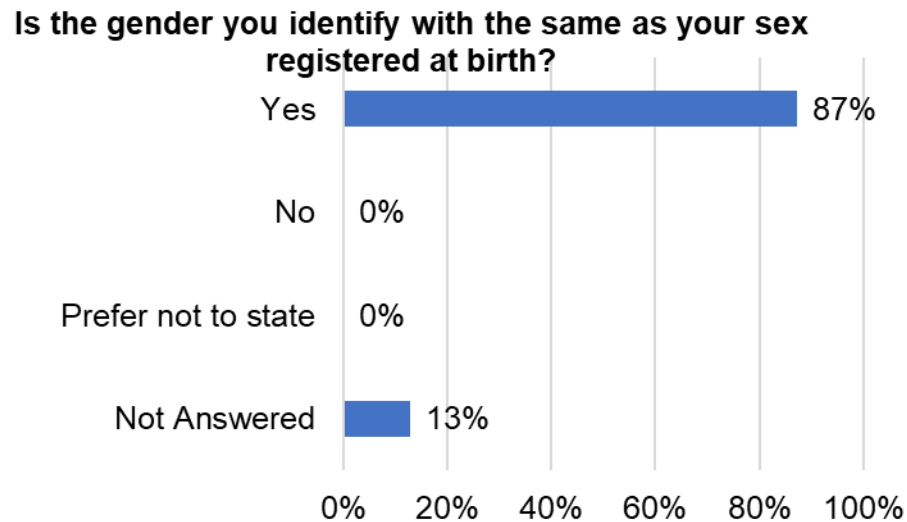
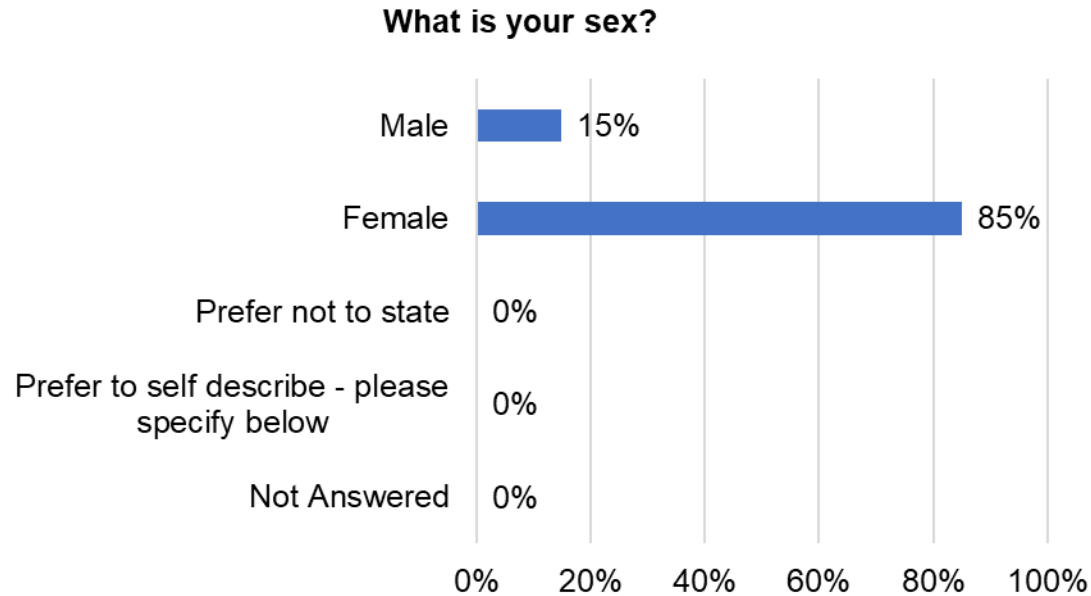
- Children were shown images of various play items and shared their preferences. The most popular choices included:
- Swings (both cradle and flat seats) and basket swings
- Playhouses (e.g. “Candy Shop”) and roundabouts with seats
- Trampolines, slides (both low and tall), and see-saws
- Climbing structures of different heights
- Colourful and interactive elements, such as ground shapes, wall panels, numbers, clocks, and sound features like chimes

Children also expressed a strong preference for bright colours — particularly blue, pink, and red — and enjoyed drawing ideas such as mazes, houses, and bouncy castles.

Some of the images drawn by the children are shown below. Full notes and all drawings provided by the children can be found in the appendices document.



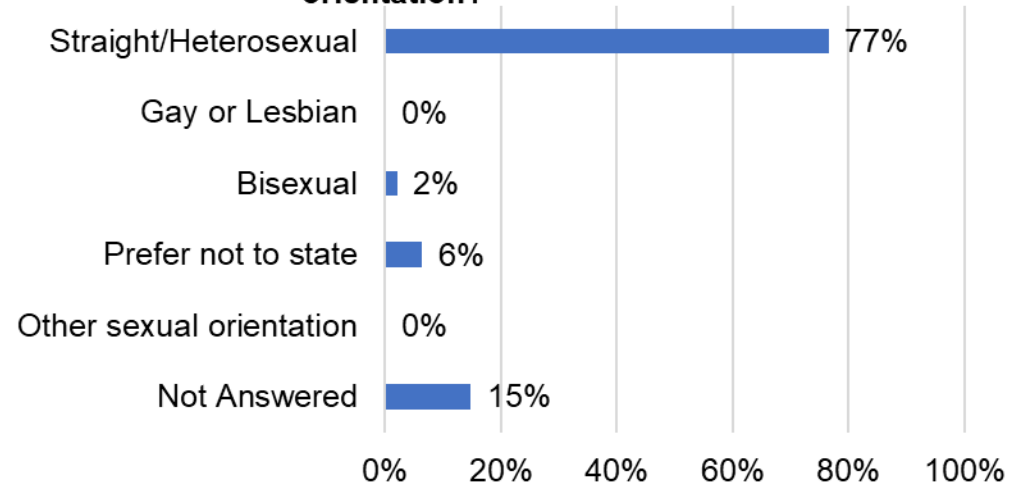
Profile of respondents



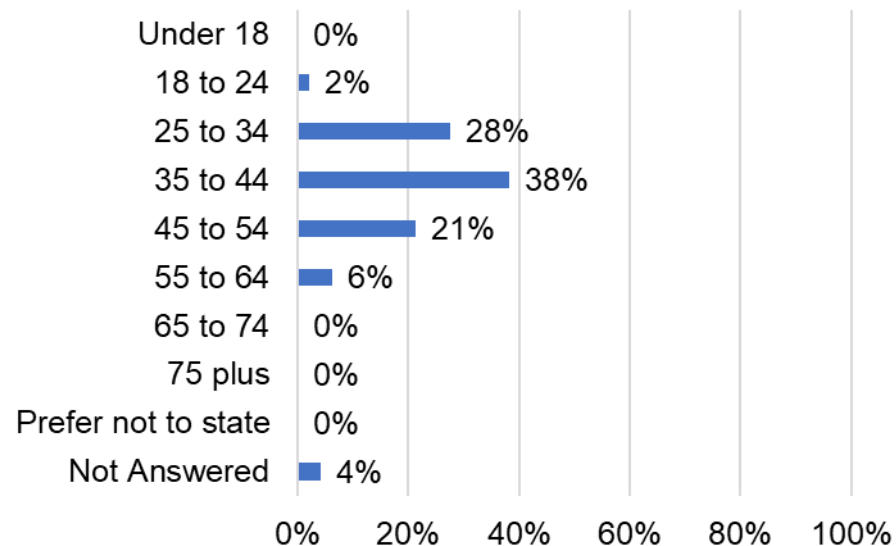
Base: All respondents (47)

Profile of respondents

Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation?



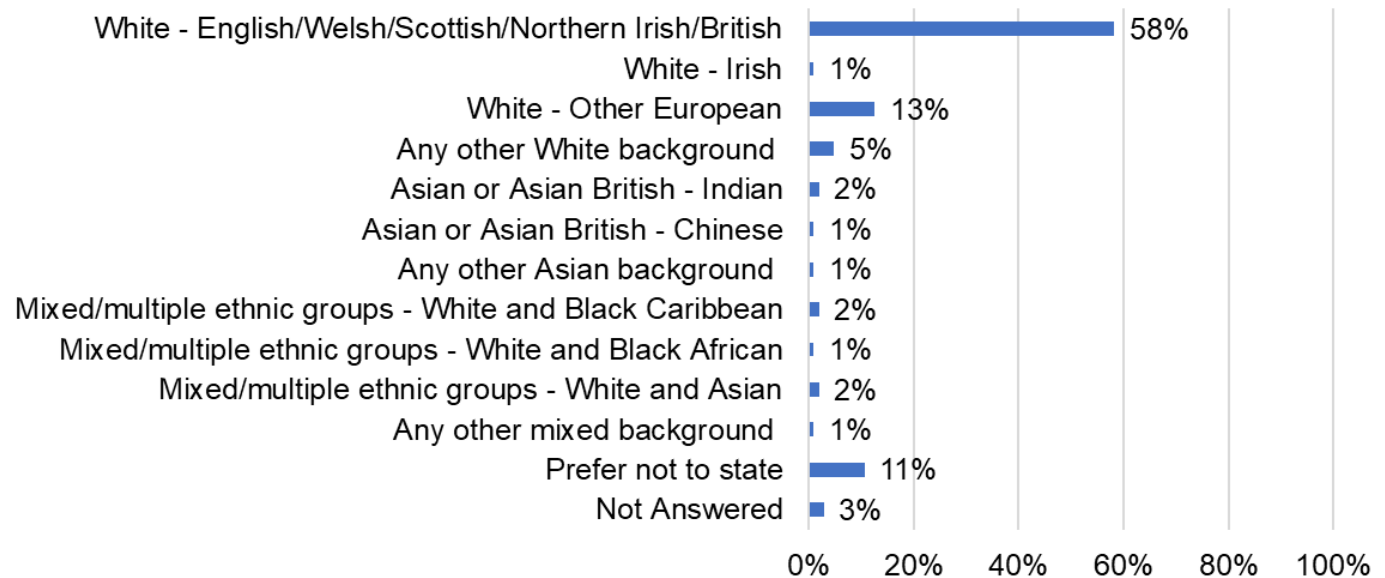
Which age group do you belong to?



Base: All respondents (47)

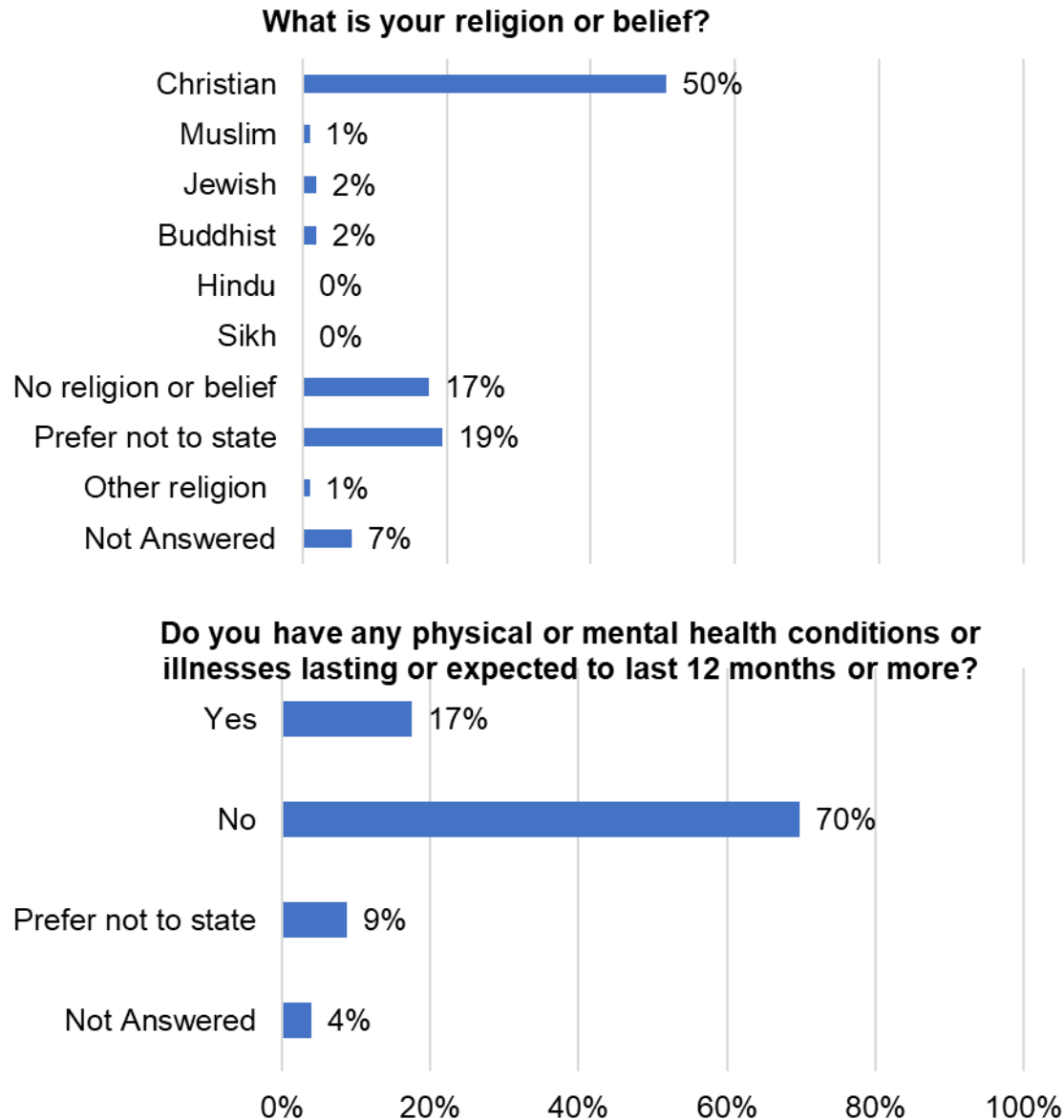
Profile of respondents

How do you describe your ethnic origin?



The graph shows the ethnic origins that were selected by respondents

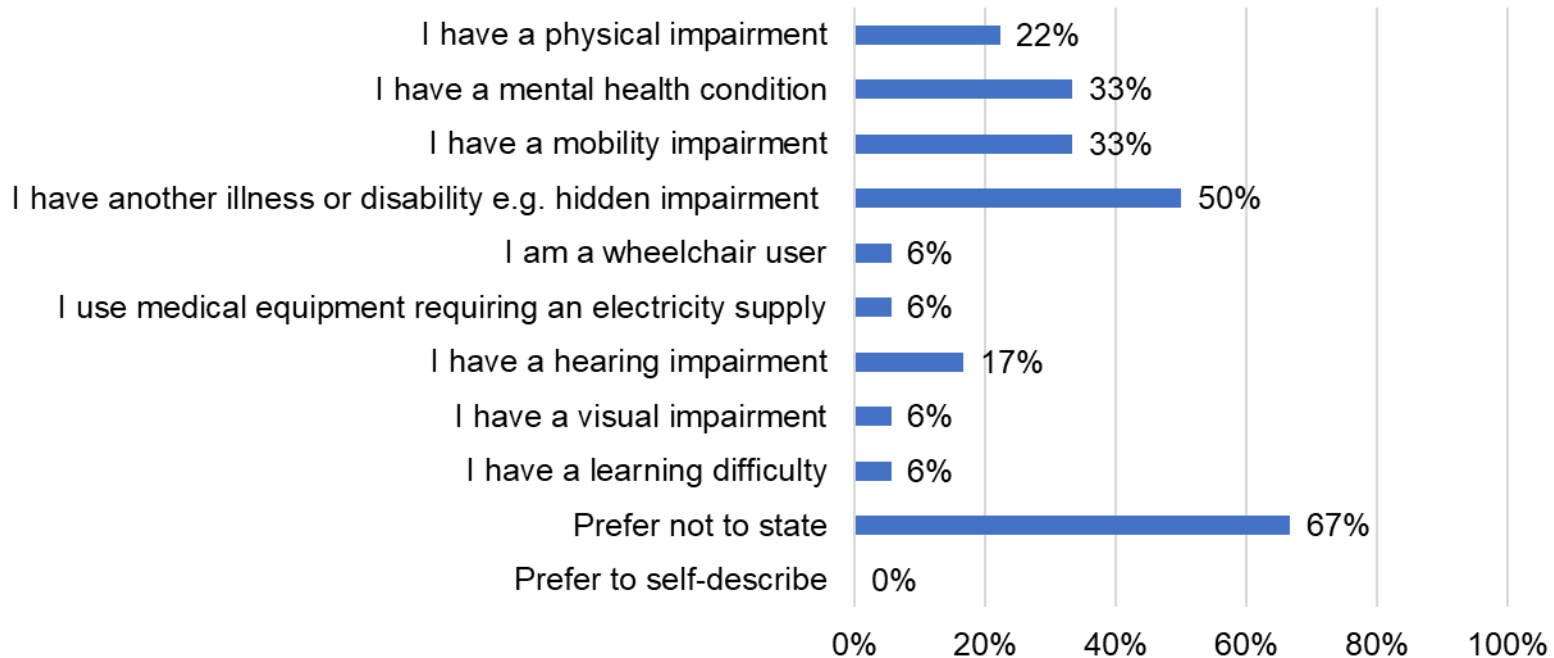
Profile of respondents



Base: All respondents (47)

Profile of respondents

If yes, what is the nature of your physical or mental health condition or illness?



Base: All respondents (47)



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA